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UNCLAS TAIPEI 000088

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR INR/R/MR, EAP/RSP/TC, EAP/PA, EAP/PD -
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E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: U.S.-CHINA-TAIWAN RELATIONS

A) "China's 'Anti-secession Law' Will Destroy Status Quo and Trigger Tensions in the Taiwan Strait; [Taiwan] Must Ensure that the United States and Japan Fully Understand [China's Threats to Taiwan]"

The pro-independence "Taiwan Daily" editorialized (1/11):

"Washington has repeatedly expressed its opposition since China said it would enact an 'anti-secession law,' because the enactment itself is a concrete action to 'change the status quo in the Taiwan Strait.' Thus we hope that [Academia Sinica President] Lee Yuan-tseh, when leading a delegation to attend U.S. President George W. Bush's inauguration ceremony, will explain to Washington and the international community the fact that China's 'anti-secession law' will destroy the status quo in the Taiwan Strait and will spark regional tensions. The international community needs to understand the serious consequences once such a law is approved. Only public outrage from the international community can stop China from acting recklessly now."

B) "ROC Is Taiwan Status Quo"

The conservative, pro-unification, English-language "China Post" said in an editorial (1/11):

"Next week, Taipei will send a high-profile delegation to Washington to attend President George W. Bush's inauguration on January 20.

"Wu Jau-shieh, chairman of Taipei's Mainland Affairs Council, is a delegate and expected to relay Taipei's concerns over Beijing's legislative move [for the anti-secession law] and Washington's non-opposition to it.

"Wu has already called upon the world, especially the U.S., to strongly oppose Beijing's legislative plan because it will provide a legal basis for Beijing to attack Taiwan and unilaterally change the status quo.

"But such argument, which is no different from the reasoning for Taiwan independence, will have little effect because of Washington's long-standing one China policy, which is also subscribed by 163 of the world's 190 countries."

PAAL